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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—California and Western Medicine has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

EDITORIALS*

THE SAN FRANCISCO ANNUAL SESSIONS OF 1931 AND 1906—TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

May California and Western Medicine in Press Before Sixtieth Annual Session Convenes.—This, the May number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, goes to press before the opening meeting of this year's annual session of the California Medical Association. It is not possible, therefore, to discuss at the time this is written the happenings at the 1931 annual session. If the program as printed in the April CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE can be taken as a criterion, it may be assumed that the meeting will be highly successful in every way.

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Greetings: To Retiring President Kinney, to President Harris, and to the New President-Elect.—The presidential address by Dr. Lyell C. Kinney on "The Cancer Program" is printed in this issue, page 321, and is commended to the thoughtful consideration of all readers. Particularly our Retiring President's suggestions that the profession accept its responsibilities in this major public health problem by doing something tangible and constructive in California, as by him indicated.

* Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Medicine Today column which follows.

In this connection it is fitting to express the appreciation of the medical profession to Doctor Kinney for his willingness during the last year to meet his presidential responsibilities in fullest measure. His visitation work was especially commendable and sets a worthy standard for his successors, and shows how valuable could be such field visitation, a something which Dr. Percy T. Phillips of Santa Cruz strongly advocated when he was president of the California Medical Association.

To this year's president, Dr. Junius B. Harris of Sacramento, also are extended the good wishes of the members of the California Medical Association. Dr. Harris assumes office as president at a time when the legislature is in session at Sacramento, the tentative date for adjournment having been set for May 8. We wish that all members of the California Medical Association could only know how much time, effort and efficient service Dr. Harris has rendered organized medicine in his other official position as chairman of the California Medical Association Committee on Public Policy and Legislation. Doctor Harris, himself a very busy physician and surgeon, has at all times been willing to serve the profession in legislative matters, and his excellent work in that field is the best indication of how he will strive to meet his new responsibilities, as he steps from the domain of president-elect into that of the active presidency. We feel certain that he will follow up President Kinney's visitations, by himself contacting during the coming year with as many of the county societies as possible.

To the new President-elect of the California Medical Association, whosoever is to receive that great honor, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on behalf of the members of the California Medical Association, also extends greetings.

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The Memorable San Francisco Annual Session of Twenty-five Years Ago.—To the minds of older members of the California Medical Association who were in attendance at the San Francisco annual session of twenty-five years ago, and among whom the editor was one, must come back on such an occasion as this year's session at San Francisco a somewhat vivid recollection of the rapidly moving events following the great earthquake and fire catastrophe of 1906. In the Twenty-five Years Ago column of this number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE are printed a number of excerpts from the brief four-page May 1906 number of our official journal. All readers of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE may well take the time to read what the founder of this journal, the late Philip Mills Jones had to say in his extemporized four-page May number of that year. Particularly should members of the California Medical Association who have come into California later than twenty-five years ago scan what was then said, to be able thus to better appreciate how the predictions of the then editor have come true in the wonderful new San Francisco which today exists. For such new members

are here printed also a few lines from the Los Angeles *Herald*, in a Pacific Coast News Service dispatch of April 18, 1931, which was the date of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the San Francisco earthquake and fire.

The dispatch is as follows:

"San Francisco, April 18.—San Francisco today celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its great fire.

"On a morning just twenty-five years ago an earthquake shook the city, fires followed in quick succession and much of the city was destroyed.

"Out of the ashes of 2500 acres of burned homes, factories, stores and office buildings; out of the chaos of broken water mains, twisted pavements and cracked earth has risen the city which the world knows today.

"The refugees who fled from the fire soon returned. Others followed them, with the result that the city which in 1906 had a population of 387,260 has grown to 634,394.

"From that ashy 2500 acres, whose assessed valuation was approximately \$300,000,000, the city has expanded to 42 square miles, with a total assessed valuation of \$1,303,025,065.

"Not content to rest on its laurels, the city has other huge tasks planned, some of which are already under way. Others are assured." . . .

NARCOTIC PRESCRIPTIONS—CALIFORNIA NARCOTIC LAWS

The California Medical Association Council's Letter of Caution of March, 1930.—Under the above caption, in this column of the March 1930 issue, page 192, attention was called to a letter on the California narcotic laws, which letter was gotten out by the Council and mailed to every member of the California Medical Association.

Only recently a communication was received by the Council from a member of one of the component county societies, in which the Council was somewhat taken to task for presumably having been frightened, when it gave expression in its letter on the desirability of all members of the California Medical Association protecting themselves from arrest by narcotic inspectors through carefully observing the technical provisions of the California statutes concerning narcotic prescriptions.

* * *

A Recent Opinion on the Narcotic Law by Attorney General Webb of California.—That the action last year taken by the Council in sending out the letter about narcotics was warranted may be gathered from the item quoted below, which has just been received by the editor from Dr. C. B. Pinkham, secretary of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California. The item is printed at this time because it will serve as an additional reminder and caution for members of the California Medical Association to be punctilious when they write prescriptions for narcotics.

The item follows:

"It is reported that on March 3, 1931, Attorney General Webb rendered Opinion No. 7425 in interpretation of Section 1 of 'An Act to regulate the

sale, possession, distribution and use of habit forming, narcotic and other dangerous drugs and substances and providing penalties for the violation thereof,' that

"The Act in question requires that the prescribing physician in his own handwriting affix the date of the prescription, designate the drug and the manner of its use, the name of the person for whom the same is prescribed and his address . . . and that the prescription shall be signed and dated as of the date on which said prescription is written by the physician."

"This opinion is of sufficient importance to be presented to the medical profession for their guidance."

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOSPITAL—CHARGES AGAINST ITS SUPER-INTENDENT

California County Hospital Problems.—As the years come and go, the county hospital situations in California take on increasing complexities.

In the February 1931 CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 120, the attempt of the chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County to inaugurate what might be considered a form of state medicine at the Santa Maria branch of the Santa Barbara Hospital was discussed.

Again in the March 1931 number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, page 219, was given a considerable review of some opinions of the basic California laws having to do with the organization and maintenance of county hospitals, and the economic status of citizens who were eligible to admittance in such institutions. These excerpts were taken by the editor from a file which was loaned to him by Dr. Neal N. Wood, superintendent of the Los Angeles County General Hospital.

* * *

Supervisor Shaw Files Charges Against Superintendent Wood.—Comes now a new sensation in California county hospital affairs, the same being an effort to bring about the dismissal of Dr. Neal N. Wood of the Los Angeles County General Hospital. At the time this is written charges have been filed, but the hearing of Doctor Wood has not yet taken place. The result of that hearing will probably be known to members of the California Medical Association before this May issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is placed in the mails.

Pending such a hearing, it is better that the subject of the charges and the possible reasons therefore, as filed by Supervisor Frank Shaw, be not discussed in detail in this column. Nevertheless, inasmuch as the Los Angeles County Medical Association has been drawn into the controversy, and through its trustees and councilors has gone on record on certain phases of the matters in dispute, it is very proper to call attention thereto in this official journal of the California Medical Association. It must be agreed that to have summarily dismissed a hospital executive, after years of service, on charges from two lay